

Subject: BRTU E-News: Muddy Water in the Bitterroot
From: Marshall Bloom (drtrout@mtbloom.net)
To: drtrout@mtbloom.net;
Cc: pernichele@msn.com;
Date: Saturday, September 7, 2013 10:00 PM

A number of people have contacted BRTU about muddy water in the West Fork. After discussing the matter this morning with River Commissioner Al Pernichele, he moseyed upstream this afternoon to check out the situation and determine the cause.

Thanks are due to Al for taking the concerns seriously and investigating.

Here is Al's report:

From: Al PERNICHELE [mailto:pernichele@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2013 9:17 PM
To: Marshall Bloom
Cc: Larry Schock
Subject: Muddy Water in the Bitterroot

Greetings,

On Saturday, two landowners from the West Fork reported much sediment in the discharge from Painted Rocks. Water in the reservoir was reported to be clear.

Several fisherman reported heavy sediment in the upper Bitterroot beginning mid morning on Friday. On Saturday afternoon, sediment significantly affect water clarity downstream to about Angler's Roost. The Upper West Fork was particularly muddy.

Inspection of the reservoir and West Fork Saturday afternoon indicated that the main source was upstream from the reservoir. It appears that sediment resulted from a Thursday night thunder storm in the area burned last year in the upper watershed (Chrandal fire). Mud and debris was still flowing into the reservoir and apparently flowing along the bottom to the outlet. Sediment in the West Fork and upper River will likely be a problem for another day or two so I would check before trying to fish these waters.

WATER POLICY INTERIM
COMMITTEE. 2013-14